

# OVERVIEW OF MAJOR REFORMS IN ALL CRIMINAL LAWS AND PHILOSOPHY BEHIND INTRODUCING REFORMS IN CRIMINAL LAWS



## I : INTRODUCTION

**A:** The Parliament along with its approach towards speedy justice to all the citizens enshrined in the Constitutional and democratic aspirations and being a firm believer of their motto "**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas**" [ **Everyone's support, everyone's development, everyone's faith, everyone's effort** ] is committed and focused upon creating a comprehensive framework of criminal laws to provide accessible and speedy justice to all introduced the new Criminal laws i.e. **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam as new Penal, Criminal Procedure and Evidence Laws respectively.**

These Bills targeted the Indian Penal Code (1860), the Code of Criminal Procedure (1873), and the Indian Evidence Act (1872), two of which date back to the British era and were replaced with new ones, namely "**Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (45 of 2023), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (46 of 2023) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (47 of 2023)**" with necessary amendments and , there is a discernible effort towards getting rid of colonial era laws as well as an attempt to align towards provisions of the Constitution of India.

## II : NOTIFICATIONS OF THE NEW LAWS

### THE BHARATIYA NAGARIK SURAKSHA SANHITA, 2023 [CENTRAL ACT No. 46 OF 2023] EFFECTIVE NOTIFICATION

NOTIFICATION F. No. 1/3/2023-Judicial Cell-1, dated 23-2-2024 Gazette of India,  
Extraordinary No. 811, dated 24-2-2024

S.O. 848(E): In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of Section 1 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksh Sanhita, 2023 (46 of 2023), the Central Government hereby appoints the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2024 as the date on which the provisions of the said Sanhita, except the provisions of the entry relating to sub-section (2) of Section 106 of of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhitha , 2023 in the First Schedule ,shall come into force.

#### Chronology from The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023 to Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita [No. 46 of 2023]

1. On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita bill, 2023 was introduced by. Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, in Lok Sabha.
2. On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita bill, 2023 was withdrawn.

3. On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita bill, 2023 was introduced in Lok Sabha.
4. On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita bill, 2023 was passed in Lok Sabha.
5. On 21 December 2023, the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023 was introduced in Rajya Sabha
6. On 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita bill, 2023 was passed in Rajya Sabha.
7. On 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill 2023 received the assent of the President of India.

**THE  
BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA, 2023  
[CENTRAL ACT No. 45 OF 2023]  
EFFECTIVE NOTIFICATION**

**NOTIFICATION F. No. 1/3/2023-Judicial Cell-1, dated 23-2-2024 Gazette of India,  
Extraordinary No. 811, dated 24-2-2024**

**S.O. 849(E).-In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of  
Section 1 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (47 of 2023), the Central  
Government hereby appoints the 1st day of July, 2024 as the date on which the**

provisions of the said Adhiniyam, shall come into force.

**Chronology from The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 to Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (No. 47 of 2023)**

1. On 11 August 2023, Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, introduced the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 in Lok Sabha.
2. On 12 December 2023, the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 was withdrawn.
3. On 12 December 2023, the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023 was introduced in Lok Sabha.
4. On 20 December 2023, the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023 was passed in Lok Sabha.
5. On 21 December 2023, the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023 was introduced in Rajya Sabha.
6. On 21 December 2023, the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023 was passed in Rajya Sabha.
7. On 25 December 2023, the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023 has received the assent of the President of India.

**THE  
BHARATIYA SAKSHYA ADHINIYAM, 2023  
[CENTRAL ACT No. 47 OF 2023]  
[EFFECTIVE NOTIFICATIONS]**

**NOTIFICATION F. No. 1/3/2023-Judicial Cell-I, dated 23-2-2024 Gazette of India,  
Extraordinary No. 810, dated 24-2-2024**

**S.O. 850(E). In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of  
Section 1 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (45 of 2023), the Central Government  
hereby appoints the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2024 as the date on which the provisions of the  
said Sanhita, except the provision of sub-section (2) of Section 106, shall come into  
force.**

**Chronology from the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 to Bharatiya Nyaya  
Sanhita (No. 45 of 2023)**

1. On 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2023, Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, introduced the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha.
2. On 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 was withdrawn.
3. On 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023 was introduced in Lok Sabha inclusive of necessary improvements.

4. On 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 21023 was passed in Lok Sabha.
5. On 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2023, Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 21123 was passed in Rajya Sabha
6. On 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023 received the assent of the President of India.

### III : MAJOR REFORMS IN EACH ENACTMENT

#### **A : BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA, 2023[BNS ,2023]-INDIAN JUDICIAL CODE**

Byaratiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, is a comprehensive effort to re-define and refocus the erstwhile Indian Penal Code, 1860. With several sections being amended, repealed, or added, the new Sanhita introduces a nuanced approach to offenses, penalizing actions that endanger the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India. It also addresses contemporary challenges such as terrorism and organized crime, distinguishing between major and petty offenses and prescribing stringent penalties.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) is an approach towards a change in the current Criminal Laws of the Country as the experience of seven decades of

Indian democracy calls for a comprehensive review of our criminal laws, including the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and adapt them in accordance with the contemporary needs and aspirations of the people.

It is a renowned maxim that "Justice delayed is Justice denied" which causes unimaginable distress and hindrances to the justice delivery system for the citizens of a Country. Fast and efficient justice system is an essential component of good governance. However, delay in delivery of justice due to complex legal procedures, large pendency of cases in Courts, low conviction rates, insufficient use of technology in legal system, delays in investigation system, inadequate use of forensics are the biggest hurdles in speedy delivery of justice, which impacts the poor man adversely.

In order to address these issues a citizen's centric criminal procedure was the need of the hour. Overall, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) represents a significant step towards modernizing India's Criminal Law and addressing the pressing issues faced by the country.

BNS is poised to initiate a profound shift away from punitive and retributive



practices within the realm of criminal justice, embracing instead a restorative and rehabilitative approach. This transformation will be underpinned by a foundation of human rights, honoring the dignity and entitlements of all participants involved in the criminal justice continuum. The Sanhita being opposite of its predecessor is aimed to be Citizen Centric.

**: KEY REFORMS INCLUDE :**

- **Offences against the body**
- **Death caused by Negligence**
- **Sexual offences against women**
- **Sedition**
- **Terrorism: Terrorism includes an act that intends to**
- **Mob lynching**
- **Community service** :has been added as a form of punishment. (Sections 202, 209, 226, proviso to Section 303(2), 355 & 356(2)].
- **Removal of provision for 'Adultery'**
- **Removal of provision for 'Unnatural offences'**

## **: PHILOSOPHY BEHIND REFORMS[BNS] :**

- 1.** BNS is anticipated to bolster the efficiency and efficacy of the criminal justice framework by diminishing delays, reducing caseloads, eliminating backlogs, and combating corrupt practices. Through measures aimed at ensuring transparency, fostering accountability, and upholding professionalism, BNS will contribute to an elevated standard of justice administration and its credibility.
- 2.** By pre-empting and containing crimes that undermine societal harmony and order, the BNS will actively cultivate an environment of tranquillity and concord. Delving to the core of criminal behaviour, it will confront the societal disparities and injustices that often underlie criminal acts, thereby addressing the very roots of criminality.
- 3.** In bolstering the Constitutional values and principles, the BNS seeks to repeal and replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860 to begin with, the name itself highlights the objectives behind the Sanhita while IPC was more focused on perpetrator and defining the punishments for the offences the BNS is more focused towards the Victims, widening the scope and inclusivity in offences such as those against Children and women.

4. The new Sanhita has wider focus on Gender neutrality and has made vital efforts in including several petty offences within the purview of the said Sanhita will not only fortify the rule of law but also augment democracy within India.
5. The Legislation heralds a comprehensive and transformative approach to the criminal justice system, promising far-reaching benefits for the nation's legal and social landscape.

**: B: BHARATIYA NAGARIKA SURAKSHA SANHITA , 2023 :[BNSS,2023] :**  
**INDIAN CIVIL PROTECTION CODE**

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) is an approach towards a change in the current Criminal Laws of the Country as the experience of several decades of Indian democracy calls for a comprehensive review of our criminal laws, including the Code for Criminal Procedure, 1973 and adapt them in accordance with the contemporary needs and aspirations of the people.

**: Salient Features of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita [ BNSS ]:**

- 1. Consolidating and simplifying the law:** The BNSS consolidates and simplifies the law by repealing and amending a number of provisions of the existing legislation ie CrPC.

**2. Strengthening the rights of the accused:** The BNSS strengthens the rights of the accused by providing for a number of safeguards, such as the right to a lawyer, the right to remain silent, and the right to a fair trial.

**3. Improving the efficiency of the Criminal Justice System:** The BNSS seeks to improve the efficiency of the Criminal Justice System by Streamlining procedures and reducing delays.

**: KEY REFORMS INCLUDE :**

➤ **Detention of under-trials**

➤ **NOT APPLICABLE TO CRIMES**

Punishable by death. **(Section 479).**

This provision will also not apply to:

A) offences punishable by life imprisonment, and

B) anyone charged with more than one offence

➤ **Trials in electronic mode**

➤ **Medical examination of accused**

➤ **Forensic investigation**

➤ **Signatures and finger impressions**

➤ **Other deadlines include:**

[i] Rendering a decision within 30 days of the conclusion of arguments (extendable up to 60 days);

[ii] Informing the victim of the progress of the investigation within 90 days, and

[iii] Framing of charges by a sessions court within 60 days of the first hearing on such charges. (Section 258 and 392).

➤ **Other deadlines include**

➤ **Trial in absence of offender**

➤ **A proclaimed offender**

➤ **First Information Report**

➤ **Concept of 'Preliminary inquiry' introduced**

➤ **Zero FIR**

➤ **Overarching powers conferred for attachment and forfeiture of property**

➤ **Transparency in recording of search and seizure**

➤ **Changes in procedure relating to police custody**

➤ **Rights of victims and witnesses**

- **Use of technology**
- **E-FIR**
- **Cognizable cases**
- **Mercy petitions**
- **Sanction to prosecute**
- **Samples without arrest**
- **Power of police to detain or remove any person**

### **: PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE REFORMS UNDER BNSS:**

**The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**, seeks to humanize our criminal justice system. By providing timelines for investigations, it aims to make justice more speedy, accessible and responsive to the needs of our countrymen. Newly inserted provisions replace outdated terminology with a more people-friendly language, reflecting a commitment to a humane approach.

2. In cases involving heinous offences, the proposed legislation emphasizes the necessity of a mandatory visit by the forensic team. This strategic provision provides for bolstering the investigative process, ensuring that a specialized team conducts an on-site examination to collect crucial evidence.

3. The new Sanhita seeks to enhance the thoroughness and accuracy of criminal investigations, ultimately contributing to a more robust legal framework centered around contemporary standards of justice.

4. The proposed changes can be considered as a much needed panacea to improve the functioning of criminal justice system .However, its efficacy depends on the manner in which such provisions are implemented and adhered to in letter and spirit.

### **C : BHARATIYA SAKSHYA ADHINIYAM , 2023[ BSA, 2023]-INDIAN EVIDENCE ACT**

The Bharatiya Sakshya Aahiniyam, 2023, (New Adhiniyam[Act] ) recognizes the growing role of technology in legal proceedings.In a contemporary legal landscape, where technology plays a pivotal role, this law recognizes electronic evidence as any information generated or transmitted by any device or system capable of being stored or retrieved. This broad definition(s) encompasses a wide range of digital data, from emails and text messages to multimedia files, acknowledging the diverse forms of evidence relevant to modern cases, emphasizing factors such as authenticity and integrity. The techno friendly additions are crucial in maintaining the Credibility of electronic information presented in court, ensuring that technological advancements do not compromise the reliability of legal proceedings. Special provisions for the admissibility of DNA evidence and the acceptance

of expert opinions as evidence further bolster the commitment of 'fair and speedy trial' to a modern and effective legal framework.

The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (No. 47 of 2023) is an approach towards a change in the current Evidence Laws of the Country as the experience of seven decades of Indian democracy calls for a comprehensive review of our criminal laws, including the Evidence Act, 1872 and adapt them in accordance with the contemporary needs and aspirations of the people. The law of evidence (not being substantive or procedural law), falls in the category of "adjective law", that defines the pleading and methodology by which the substantive or procedural laws are operationalised. The existing law does not address the technological advancement undergone in the country during the last few decades.

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 is poised to initiate a profound shift away from punitive and retributive practices within the realm of criminal justice, embracing instead a restorative and rehabilitative approach. This transformation will be underpinned by a foundation of human rights, honouring the dignity and entitlements of all participants involved in the criminal justice continuum. The Sakshya Adhiniyam is focused and aimed to be Citizen Centric.



## **OBJECTIVES OF THE BHARATIYA SAKSHYA ADHINIYAM, 2023**

The term '**Sakshya**' means evidence[or] witness. Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The old Act was not able to address the problems that came with time and advancements in technology.

1. This Legislation proposes to deal with new problems and the developments of technology.
2. The objective of the Act is to consolidate and to provide for general rules and principles of evidence for fair trial.

### **: SALIENT FEATURES OF THE SAKSHYA ADHINIYAM :**

1. The words like '**Parliament of the United Kingdom**', '**Provincial Act**', '**notification by the Crown Representative**', '**London Gazette**', '**any Dominion, colony or possession of his Majesty**', '**Jury**', '**Lahore**', '**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland**', '**Commonwealth**,' '**Her Majesty or by the Privy Council**,' '**Her Majesty's Government**,' '**copies or extracts contained in the London Gazette, or purporting to be printed by the Queen's Printer**', '**possession of the British Crown**,' '**Court of Justice in England**', '**Her Majesty's Dominions**', '**Barrister**' have thus been deleted as they are no longer relevant.

2. The words like '**Vakil**', '**Pleader** and '**Barrister** have been replaced with the word '**Advocate**'.

3. The definition of "**documents**" in **Section 2(1)(d)** has been expanded to include an electronic or digital record on emails, server logs, documents on computers, laptop or smartphone, messages, websites, cloud, locational evidence and voice mail messages stored on digital devices.

4. **Sections' 62 & 63 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam** provide a comprehensive framework for the admissibility of electronic records as evidence.

5. **Section 61** brings parity in the admissibility of electronic/digital record and other documents. Now, electronic or digital records will have the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as other document.

6. Changes in Section 138 have been made to enable an accomplice to testify in court against the person accused of the crime. It clarifies that a conviction of the accused is not deemed illegal when it is based on the corroborated testimony of the accomplice. The original provision stated that conviction is not illegal merely because it proceeds upon uncorroborated testimony of an accomplice.

7. Scope of secondary evidence has been expanded in **Section 58. Secondary evidence** now also **INCLUDES** “ oral admissions, written -admissions, and evidence provided by a person who is skilled in examining certain documents, which being technical [or] voluminous cannot be conveniently examined.

8. An **Explanation** has been **added to Section 24** that clarifies that in a case when multiple people are tried jointly, if the accused who has absconded [or] who failed to comply with the proclamation issued against him under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 is absent during the trial, the trial will be conducted as a joint trial.

9. The definition of '**evidence**' in **Section 2(1)(e)** has been expanded to include any information given electronically.

### **:CHANGES MADE UNDER THE ENACTMENT:**

#### **1. Changes in Definition Clause::**

There shall be only one definition clause in the Act that will be under Section 2(1)(a) to (m) and 2(2) of the Sakshya Adhinyam. Previously, definition clause extended from Sections 3 to 4.

The Sakshya Adhiniyam **under Sec. 2(1)(c)** proposes to accept electronic record on emails, server logs, documents on computers, laptop or smartphone, messages, websites, locational evidence and voice mail messages stored on digital devices as documents and thereby as evidence under the Sec. 2(e) (ii). This can be seen as an important step considering how India has become more digitised.

The new Bill has also removed the definition of a fact **"disproved" and of "India"**. However, it provides that the words used here, but not defined shall carry the same meaning as given under IT Act, 2000, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

## **2. Changes in the law relating to facts in issue and relevancy of facts (Section 32 and 45)::**

Confession caused by inducement, threat or promise, when irrelevant in criminal proceeding (Sec. 24 of the Old Act) has undergone some changes in the New Sakshya Adhiniyam. Under Sec. 22 of the New Sakshya Adhiniyam, new Proviso have been added that specify that if the confession is made after such inducement, etc. has been fully removed is relevant (S.28 of the Old Act). Such confession does not become irrelevant merely because it was made under a promise of secrecy, or in consequence of a deception

practised on the accused person for the purpose of obtaining it or if it made in a condition where the person was drunk (S.29 of the Old Act).

**The new Sakshya Adhiniyam merges the old sections 25 and 26 relating to confession to police-officer** need to be proved and that confession made while being in police custody is invalid, unless made before a Magistrate. This has been included in the form of Section 23(1) and (2).

**Under Sec. 32** of the Sakshya Adhiniyam, e-books [or] any other electronic form of books is considered is relevant. Opinion of Examiner of Electronic Evidence which was a separate section then, has now been included **under 39(2) of the Bill**.

### **3. Changes in Proof::**

Previously Section 57(6) included all the Courts and Tribunals, Courts of Admiralty etc. by Courts to take Judicial Notice. In the new Sakshya Adhiniyam, these have been included in separate sub-sections (d) and (e) of Sec. 52.

### **4. Changes relating to evidence (Section 57 and 58)::**

**Section 57** of the Sakshya Adhiniyam that provides the definition of Primary evidence, now includes more explanations as compared to the old Act. The new provisions include explanation regarding admission of electronic or digital data or video recording as primary evidence.

Secondary evidences mentioned in **Sec. 58 of the Sakshya Adhinyam** now provides for oral admissions, written admissions and also evidence of a person who has examined a document, which weren't mentioned in the old Act.

### **5. Changes in Presumptions::**

The old Section 88 Which dealt with the presumption as to telegraphic messages, has now been replaced by the new Sakshya Adhinyam **under Sec. 90 as electronic messages sent through e-mails**. This can be seen as an improvement with an approach to adapt with the change of technology through time.

The old **Section 113** that dealt with the Presumption as to cession of territory, has been **REPEALED** completely.

### **6. Changes in evidence relating to Witnesses::**

Pertinently in Sec. 124 of the Sakshya Adhinyam which relates to the testification by witness, the term "person with mental illness" has been used as against the old "lunatic." It can be seen as a awakened approach to address the issue of mental illness amongst the people that make them unfit to testify as witnesses.

## **: KEY REFORMS INCLUDE :**

- **Documentary evidence**
- **Oral evidence**
- **Admissibility of Electronic or Digital Records as Evidence**
- **Secondary evidence**

**The New Adhinyam expands secondary evidence to include;**

[i] oral and written admissions, and

[ii] the testimony of a person who has examined the document and is skilled in the examination of documents

- **Joint trials**

## **: PHILOSOPHY BEHIND REFORMS UNDER BSA , 2023 :**

The new Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023 has significant plus points as compared to the old Act ie Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and has incorporated features of modern technology friendly legislation.

**1. Addresses issues of admissibility of evidences in electronic form** The old Act was not this open to e-evidences. The Sakshya Adhinyam has widened the scope of secondary evidence by including evidences in electronic form and such copies (soft copy)

made thereof.

**2. It has more Indian-ness in it:** The Bill has more Indian-ness than the Act. The words that relate to the Crown, British Queen, General Gazette etc. are all replaced by words like "India", President", Official Gazette etc. The changes are in tune with modern Bharat.

**3. More sensitive to mental illnesses,** The word 'lunatic' has been replaced by person suffering from mental illnesses. This is indeed, an advancement of the society. For so long, it has been a tabooed topic in India. The new definition appears to be more apt with advancement of society and sensitivity with section of society.

**4. The old Act had become obsolete** - Many sections in the old Act unnecessarily related to British Crown, British Queen, Common wealth, cession of territory etc. As the time passed by, by, there have changes since those Acts; we gained freedom and merged parts of India to form this Union of States. It is now quite irrelevant to have mention of these decade old words and phrases. By repealing these words and phrases contained in the British laws, India can truly emphasize its sovereignty.

To Conclude ,**The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA)** helps to ensure that legal system may be equipped to handle cases involving digital/electronic evidence.



It provides a platform for law enforcement agencies and judiciary with a comprehensive framework to deal with digital evidences of varied nature. The changes in the definition of the Evidence will permit the appearance of witnesses, accused, experts to depose their evidence through digital/electronic means.

**[B]** These additional features provide for technology-oriented approach by recognizing the validity of information given, thus, tackling with menace of challenges involved in physical presence and overcrowding at judicial forums. Through use of technology in collection of evidence, significant changes have been introduced emphasizing on their proper custody and establishing their originality. The provisions of BSA streamlined the procedures of validating and verifying electronic content. The new Legislation heralds a comprehensive and transformative approach to the criminal justice system/promising far-reaching benefits for the nation's legal and social landscape.

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CRIMINAL LAW

## CONCLUSION

**Before, I conclude myself :**

**I recollect the words of Justice Krishna Iyer**

**“ who said, procedure is the handmaid of justice”, meaning that the procedural rules are meant to serve justice and not to hinder it “.**

The age old criminal laws focussed only to protect the British interest and more focused on idea of awarding punishments. The criminal law modernization in the form of three legislations symbolize robust legal transformation as it reinforces a commitment to ensuring justice resonates with the society's changing needs. The legislative stride positions India on the path towards a more equitable, accessible, and evolved legal framework. The focus is on fair, time bound evidence based speedy trial for 'ease of justice'. The process of legal reform has commenced, and these ground breaking laws indicate a future where justice is not only delivered but is inclusive and reflective of our nation's dynamic ethos.

**Submitted with due respects**

**K. MADHAVI, CIVIL JUDGE [SENIOR DIVISION]-CUM-ASST. SESSIONS JUDGE**